

# The Philatelic Communicator

## Journal of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30



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Fourth Quarter 2020 Issue 210

## A Checklist Project for Advanced Collecting

### by A.J. Valente



In this year of contagion one must look for alternative projects, and mine has been to compile a checklist for my diverse collections. I had formally been a software engineer at Adobe Corp. where I worked on PageMaker, which is to say I also know my way around pre-press methods. These are useful skills that perhaps every writer should be aware of.

Last year I purchased a 4-volume

set of Scott-Schubek hingeless U.S. albums in order to get this part of the collection out of stock books. I then split my used US collection into four Scott National albums to mirror the mint collection. In addition I have multiple volumes of classic US stamps and postal history mounted on homemade pages. Also on the bookshelf is a volume for revenue stamps and another of postal stationery. Indeed, the collection had grown to such proportions that I'd only the vaguest notion of the path to completion. Thus, when attending club meetings, shows or auctions, I'd become somewhat gun-shy about acquiring new material.

A check-list seemed to be the answer. A friend showed me a recent Scott checklist housed in a rather thick three-ring binder. It had a collage of color pictures on the left-hand pages, while the right-hand pages contained a listing with descriptions, catalog numbers and prices. In addition, way over to the far right edge, crammed into a narrow space, there appeared a miniature-sized checklist. Unfortunately, this is not the style of checklist for an advanced collector.

Scott had at one time published a U.S. checklist that fit into the shirt pocket, a very handy reference. Luckily, one of these was found on-line, although this particular version only went to 1976. The challenge now became to create additional pag-

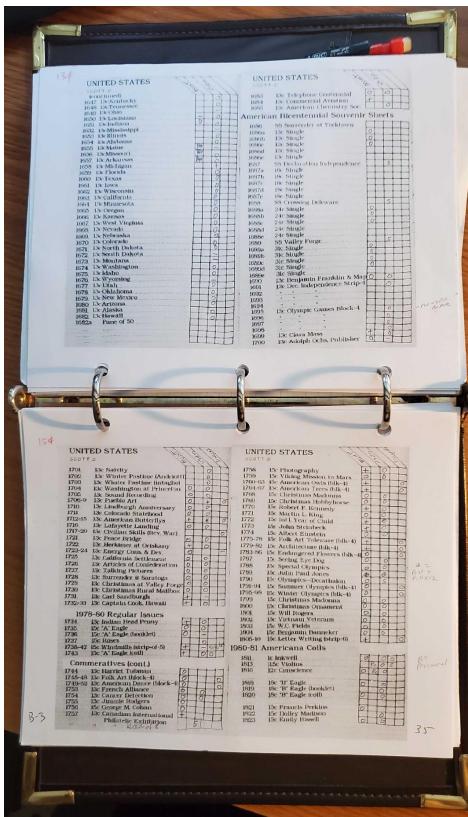
es to bridge the gap to the late-1990s where my collection ended. Also, the checklist had no sections for revenues or stationery, so these would have to be manufactured.

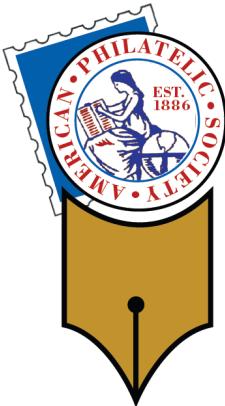
To begin, the pages of the shirt-pocket edition were laid out and photographed in pairs using a Galaxy S-10 phone camera, with the images next uploaded to the computer in .jpeg format. A pair of blank pages found in the book sufficed as a template so additional listings could be effected using the text generation feature in PhotoShop. An old Brookman catalog supplied source information and catalog numbers. Brookman contains a minimalist listing that is more useful for this kind of project.

Each pair of checklist pages was rotated 90 degrees, creating a flip-folder style that was then cropped to fit a 7-inch binder. These images were inserted into PageMaker documents and subsequently distilled into .PDF format. The PDFs were next printed on back-to-back pages using a versatile LaserJet printer (Brother HL232 HD). The entire listing now fit onto just 40 sheets. Next came a trip to Staples where copies were made from the originals, and upon collating the copies were neatly hole-punched and trimmed to size.

It will still take a long while to fill-out the checklist completely. The various column listings employed are; mint, no gum, used, coil pair, cover, etc. Blank squares within the checklist indicate holes in the collection, but in addition each square is amply sized to accommodate some basic codes as; VF, mint hinged, space filler, first day of issue, socked-on-the-nose, ad nauseam. The idea is still to complete the missing pieces, but also to cull and upgrade the collection going forward.

In future when traveling to shows, etc. I'll have the entire collection under hand in a 7" executive leather binder. So, invariably when a dealer asks, "What are you looking for?" I can gleefully reply, "Well, what have you got?" ♦





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**David E. Crotty, Editor**  
P.O. Box 16115  
Ludlow, KY 41016-0115  
[decrofty@yahoo.com](mailto:decrofty@yahoo.com)  
859-360-0676

**Thomas P. Johnston, Associate Editor**  
124 Bishopstone Circle  
Frederick, MD 21702-5123  
[tjohnstn@gmail.com](mailto:tjohnstn@gmail.com)

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## APS Writers Unit #30

### Deadlines for receipt of copy by the editor:

First Quarter: February 1      Second Quarter: June 1  
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### Lloyd de Vries, President

P.O.Box 1249, Washington Township, NJ 07676-1249  
[stamps@pobox.com](mailto:stamps@pobox.com)

### David E. Crotty, Vice President

P.O. Box 16115 Ludlow, KY 41016-0115  
[decrofty@yahoo.com](mailto:decrofty@yahoo.com) 859-462-6995

### Alan Barasch, Secretary Treasurer

P O Box 411571  
Saint Louis, MO 63141-3571  
[wu30@mophil.org](mailto:wu30@mophil.org)

The **Executive Committee** includes the officers, Editor, and Immediate Past President  
Gene Fricks.....[genefricks@comcast.net](mailto:genefricks@comcast.net)

The WU#30 Council includes

Ernest E. Fricks,.....[genefricks@comcast.net](mailto:genefricks@comcast.net) (2017)  
David A. Kent,.....[kentdave@aol.com](mailto:kentdave@aol.com) (2017)  
Leonard Robert McMaster.....[usps.possessions@gmail.com](mailto:usps.possessions@gmail.com) (2017)  
Dane S. Claussen.....[danes.claussen@gmail.com](mailto:danes.claussen@gmail.com) (2015)  
Daniel C. Warren, M.D.....[dwarrenmd@cox.net](mailto:dwarrenmd@cox.net) (2015)  
Ken Trettin, Assistant to Treasurer.....[hogman@myomnitel.com](mailto:hogman@myomnitel.com)

Writers Unit #30 Committee Chairs are:

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Webmaster: Todd Ronnei  
[tronnei@gmail.com](mailto:tronnei@gmail.com)  
WU #30 Breakfast: Lloyd de Vries



## David Crotty From the Editor

### Virtual Life

Life with Zoom has taken over. I've taken part in numerous sessions with family, a business meeting, and hobby groups. We may need to do this for quite awhile until a good vaccine takes hold. Take care. Wear a mask.

The recent literature exhibits have been entirely virtual. Some of the philatelic exhibits, including the "Great American Stamp Show" have had limited online exhibits. All these things should continue to operate after the coronavirus is defeated.

We as "communicators" will be in the front of this movement. For example, we need to get used to preparing better visuals for the Zoom meetings.

Then I have the thought that this may not end easily. If the world can make such a terrible virus once, it can likely do it again. We may need to rethink a lot of how we live.

### Security and Passwords

There is an argument to be made that passwords need to be maintained to keep out the bad boys in this world. And yes you should not be too repetitive. Recently Google Chrome reported to me that some 37 of my passwords had been exposed by a data breach somewhere that they would not identify. All of them were the same password BTW. I had to go in and give all those websites new passwords. That was not fun.

However there is the other side. Also recently, a story went around that one society editor died before he had quite finished that latest journal issue. Nobody knew the password for his computer. That journal issue is being pieced together by another society officer.

So maybe there has to be a balance. If you do work for someone there should be a way to get into that work if you are not around for some reason. Tough world we live in.

Dave



## Lloyd de Vries President's Mes-

This December 31, as the clock strikes midnight, instead of "Auld Lang Syne," you'll hear millions of people singing, "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye." (That's the "Steam" song sports fans sing when a player is sent to the showers in disgrace.) "Happy New Year?" 2021 would have to go to great lengths to be less happy than 2020!

Philately and the APS Writers Unit #30 were not immune to the pandemic and its horrors. Two writers/editors I knew personally who were active in my specialty, first day covers, Doug Kelsey and Al Starkweather, were recovering from strokes when they contracted the coronavirus during rehab. Many other writers and editors were also sickened.

We also lost stamp shows, some of which will not re-open. In at least one case, it's because the long-time venue is shuttered. In others, the already-aging show committees will be yet another year older, and may be missing a few members, too.

However, enough doom-and-gloom. You can get that from your favorite cable news channel. Let's look on the bright side.

Thousands of people took out their childhood stamp collections or a relative's collection during the shutdowns and decided philately was more interesting than they'd realized. I haven't heard a good explanation for this phe-

nomenon: Maybe because sorting stamps doesn't take up any bandwidth? Because you can buy, sell, trade and discuss without leaving your "bubble?" Because it hearkens back to a simpler, safer time?

Of course, stamp collecting has changed since most of us started: We don't tear off stamps from the mail we get (there aren't many stamps on the mail) or soak the stamps off the paper (they don't soak). Few people collect every issue from every country, or even every issue from one country. Practically all collectors concentrate on certain specialties, such as an issue, a variety, or a topic. There is also less stigma against topicals and first day covers today, which are often entryways for new collectors.

That is where we writers and editors come in: We need to ensure a welcoming, fun, supportive atmosphere for new collectors. Instead of "that's junk and you should be collecting *my* specialty," say something positive. Make sure every issue of your publication has something less esoteric, something understandable for the adult newcomer who may be interested in your specialty but doesn't have your depth and breadth of knowledge, or even your dedication. I don't mean puzzles and cartoons, I mean going over the basics, telling interesting stories and so on.

Also, check your organization's public face: Its publications, its website, its outreach to new members. Are they up to date? Attractive? Addressing the needs and interests of today's collectors? As editors and writers, we are the people who should recognize good media, and help make bad media better.

Helping philately make new friends starts with us.

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## Absentee Ballots Used Postage Meters

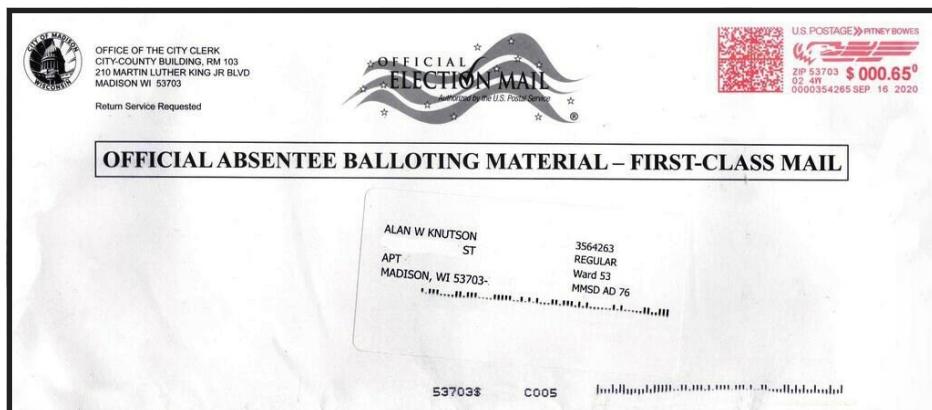
David Crotty, Alan Knutson

The coronavirus pandemic required many society changes, including how Americans voted for President this year. Every US state made arrangements to expand the existing absentee voting program to include almost anyone who did not want to appear in person on November 3rd. This brought out a record number of voters.

Each local election board sent out an envelope similar to the one shown below that contained the election ballot for its voting precincts as well an addressed and stamped return envelope. Some states sent ballots to all registered voters, but most sent only to those who requested a ballot.

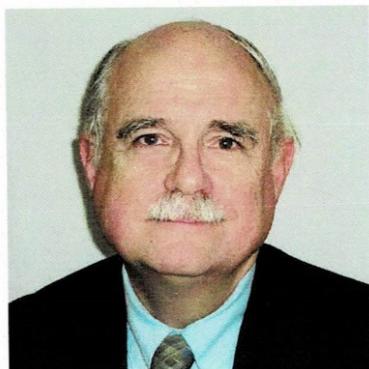
For many states the postage was prepaid by postage meters. We know that Northern Kentucky used a Neopost meter, Alan Knutson's Wisconsin used the Pitney Bowes shown below, Alan

Draves reports that his county in Ohio used a Hasler meter, and Bill McAllister of *Linn's Stamp News* showed a Quadiant meter in a November 7 article. Some members report the use of permits for this application. It would be great to list how the states handled this. ◆



# Do you think anyone would be interested in...

## John M. Hotchner



I've had several inquiries from nascent philatelic writers in the last several months asking versions of the question in the title. They have already written for specialist publications.

Now they are thinking they might try to interest readers of general philatelic publications, but is there an audience for their area of interest?

It is an easy question to answer. No matter how narrow the subject, or how far from mainstream philately it is, the answer is yes – IF you as the author are able to infuse your article with the enthusiasm you feel for the subject.

Many authors feel that their major task is to convey philatelic facts and figures. The resulting articles may be useful to specialists, but are unlikely to generate interest beyond that cohort. There are a great many collectors who are eclectic readers who enjoy dabbling in other areas about which they don't know much. And some percentage of those folks are even open to picking up new collecting interests and can be inspired by your work.

But if it is just facts and figures, even these collectors who start to read such articles often conclude by two paragraphs in that going further is not worth their time.

The key to keeping eyes on your work is to put yourself into your writing. A dry recitation of facts may not garner a lot of attention unless you are the author of a work cataloguing something for the first time. But if you mix your experiences in with the facts, relate the philatelic to relevant non-philatelic history, and talk about the “whys”, not just the “whats”, your article will be enjoyed, will inspire, and will be shared by readers with friends.

How to do this? Talk about what from the subject area “spoke” to you when you first got interested. What was the purpose of the stamps when issued? How do they relate to the wider world? Illustrate the article with attractive images; and they need not all be of stamps and covers. Mention how you acquired the material in your article (“The thrill of the chase”) and where more of it might be available. This information is precisely what would connect him to his readers!

You don't need to know everything about everything in your subject area. If there are unsolved mysteries about your material, say so and invite reader input.

By the way, you don't need to know everything about everything in your subject area. If there are unsolved mysteries about your material, say so and invite reader input.

Finally, if you get used to putting yourself into your articles, you just might find that writing is more fun! ◆

# Albert Warren Starkweather, Jr., 1939-2020

## Former Editor *The Philatelic Communicator*

Albert "Al" Starkweather, 81, died November 14 , 2020 in Tampa, Florida due to complications following a fall. In 2015 he was named Editor of *First Days*, the bimonthly journal of the American First Day Cover Society and held that position at the time of death.

Al was the son of Elizabeth and Albert Starkweather, Sr. and was born in Brownville, N.Y., May 9, 1939. He obtained a BA in English and psychology from the State University of New York at Potsdam and undertook graduate work in communications and photography at Syracuse University, and in business at the University of Connecticut.

Starkweather began his writing career with the *Watertown (N.Y.) Daily Times*. He served as executive editor for Thomson Newspapers where he restructured and redesigned several of its papers. He was project editor of CRC Press where he edited some of their technical handbooks and also worked for the *Hartford Courant*.

In recent years, as owner of Design on Demand, he created web sites for many organizations including trade shows and art galleries. His firm offered consulting services for print and online communications. He also taught courses in fields such as computer science and journalism.

He joined the American Air Mail Society in the 1970s and learned about philatelic writing and editing from Frank Blumenthal and Perham Nahl. Al edited the APS Writers Unit's *The Philatelic Communicator (TPC)* from 2006 to 2010 during which time he vastly improved the use of graphics and converted the journal from black-and-white to full color. He also edited *The Ceremonial*, journal of the American Ceremony Program Society.

Al created the web site for the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies and edited its print and online magazine *The Insider* from 2003 until it was discontinued in 2018. He also contributed to *Stamps* magazine and *Stamp Auction News*.

Al Starkweather is survived by his brother John E. Starkweather, and daughters Lisa Starkweather and Karin Santamaria.

Alan Warren



Albert Starkweather  
Tampa Bay Times

### The Rest of the Story

I probably should not tell everything I know (as little as it is) about Al Starkweather. First, that is a stunning photo of Al that we have here. Lloyd tells me that this is the only photo anybody could come up with. Actually there are two. The fact is we don't know much about him. What you read here, and the photos, came mostly from the *Tampa BayTimes*.

What I know about editing came mostly from Al. It happens that one day in 2010 Peter Martin called me and asked me to be the *TPC* editor. As I heard it, Peter reduced Al's yearly stipend for *TPC* from \$1000 to \$500 due to the Writer's Unit's lowering membership. Al Quit. The irony of ironies is that some years before Peter's stipend for another journal was cut by exactly the same amounts and Peter quit. While I got that same \$500 for awhile, it all crashed and burned in 2017 when our treasurer announced we were out of cash. You all know

the rest of that story.

Al was willing to talk to me about how he did things and I learned a lot just by copying what I saw from his previous issues of *TPC*. We talked quite a bit just as I took over. He told me what I needed to know and sent me back issues that he had.

So that is the rest of the story.

David Crotty

# George Brown Arfken, Jr. 1922-2020

Noted Canadian postal history author and exhibitor George B. Arfken died October 8, 2020 in Clearwater, Florida at age 97. In 2009 he was elected to the Writers Hall of Fame.

Arfken was born to Ann and George Arfken, Sr., November 20, 1922 in Jersey City, N.J. He obtained a degree in chemical engineering from Yale, served two years in the U.S. Navy, and returned to Yale where he earned his master's and PhD in physics. He worked briefly in the National Laboratory at Oak Ridge, Tenn., and then taught physics and served as department chairman at the University of Miami in Toledo, Ohio, retiring in 1983.

George began collecting in junior high school and returned to the hobby more seriously in the early 1970s. His exhibit of Canadian pre-UPU rates received a gold at the CAPEX 96 FIP show. He authored over 250 philatelic articles that appeared in *Canadian Philatelist*, *American Philatelist*, *The Chronicle of U.S. Classic Postal Issues*, *BNA Topics*, *Postal History Society of Canada Journal*,



George Brown Arfken  
Younger and Older.

*Collectors Club Philatelist* and elsewhere.

He also authored or co-authored ten books on key subjects including air mails and registered mail of Canada; Canada's decimal, pence, and small queen eras postal history; Canada and the UPU 1871-1900; early Canada post cards; and the large numeral postage due stamps of the United States. He received numerous awards for "best article" in several of the journals and his books earned high awards in literature competitions.

He was inducted into the BNAPS Order of the Beaver in 1996 and was named a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada in 2001. In 2001 the American Philatelic Society also honored him with the Luff award for distinguished philatelic research.

Arfken is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service is planned for a future date.

Alan Warren

## Reviews Print & Electronic



Reviews in *TPC* are indexed at [www.wu30.org/Journal](http://www.wu30.org/Journal).

**Topical Adventures: A Guide to Topical and Thematic Stamp Collecting (2020)** Published by the American Topical Association, Greer, S.C. Softcover, 8 ½ inches by 11 inches, 176 pages

Edited by Jack R. Congrove, Dawn R. Hamman and Martin Kent Miller. Designed by Martin Kent Miller and Jack R. Congrove. Contributors: 54, including collectors, writers, researchers, exhibitors and judges. Publication date: Aug. 1, 2020. Cost: In U.S. \$43.50 plus \$5 shipping. ATA members pay \$39.50, plus \$5 shipping. Contact ATA for international pricing.

To order: Visit the ATA website <https://americantopical.org/> Topical-Adventures or contact [americantopical@msn.com](mailto:americantopical@msn.com); Buyers can also mail a check to American Topical Association, PO Box 2143, Greer SC 29652-2143.

What is the best way to collect stamps? It's a question asked

often to longtime philatelists. Of course, the best reply is, "You collect what you like." When pressed for something more specific, a philatelist trying to foster interest in the hobby has two more go-to responses: try a specific country or collect by topic or theme.

Collecting by country has a pretty obvious meaning. But what is a topic or theme? That is answered in a definitive new reference book, *Topical Adventures: A Guide to Topical and Thematic Stamp Collecting*.

The book is published by the American Topical Association, which was founded in 1949 and is the world's leading stamp-collecting group associated with thematic collecting. The ATA has created more than 1,400 topical checklists – from Americana and Toy Balloons to Submarines and Victoria Falls – containing more than 420,000 stamps. This how-to book is designed to make sense of it all and is especially valuable for beginners and mid-level collectors, though experienced philatelists should also find much to like here.

This is the third edition of *Adventures in Topical Collecting*, though the first in more than 20 years. Editions in 1981 and 1997 were created by ATA founder Jerome Husak and *Topical Time* editor George Griffenhagen. Just looking at the three edi-

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tions shows you how much topical collecting has grown. The first two books – at 72 and 96 pages, respectively – are dwarfed by the new edition, a hefty 204 pages and at a larger format (8 ½ inches by 11 inches), to boot.

One noticeable difference between this book and the previous one is graphics. The 1997 edition had partial color and about 150 images. This new version is full color with about 300 images. Also, rarely was an image more than 3 inches wide in the last edition. This version has large, rich images revealing plenty of details.

Before I go much further, I should note that I have been an ATA member off-and-on (currently on) since the 1980s. But I was not in any way involved in creating this volume so hopefully you can just flat-out believe me when I say that this is a magnificent how-to book chock full of gems.

Thanks to the detail and thoroughness presented by several award-winning contributors this is a professional-level volume created by philatelists “for whom topical collecting and exhibiting have been wonderful experiences,” writes ATA President Dawn Hamman in the Preface. Hamman, Jack R. Congrove and Martin Kent Miller are the book’s editors.

The quality of what lies within is clear from the get-go. Hamman’s Preface, which acknowledges the key people in creating the book, is followed by a somewhat deeper view by Thomas Broadhead. “What we see in a stamp’s design is what first attracts our attention and curiosity,” he writes. “Stamp images capture our imaginations in a universal sense that is unmatched in its variety.”

There are acknowledgments of more than 50 volunteer contributors and ATA Executive Director Jennifer Miller offers her personal connections to the hobby. “The ATA is all about having fun,” she writes.

The introduction then adds two more important sections that many stamp publications either ignore or offer short shrift: A glossary of three dozen acronyms (from AAPE, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors to WSP, World Series of Philately) and a full page on how to use the book. Thank you, thank you, ATA.

Chapter Two is an ATA primer that covers the society as a resource and has a nice review of the history and its many services, including social media presence, an explanation of its all-important checklists (best way to keep track of your topical collection) and acknowledgement of its award-winning journal – *Topical Time*, edited by Wayne Youngblood.

There is a full listing of nearly 50 ATA-affiliated specialty study units, including the Astronomy Study Unit, Disneyana on Stamps Society, the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club and Gems-Minerals-Jewelry Study Unit. Four specialty groups have full pages in which each explores the scope of their pur-

suits. Those study units are for biology, penguins, the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (whose founder, Esper Hayes, was inspired into the hobby by Olympian Jesse Owens) and Rotary International.

The final six chapters offer members’ experience and knowledge in every possible area needed by a collector, casual or experienced. Those chapters are Getting Started, Initial Decisions, Expanding Your Horizons, Storing and Displaying Your Collection, Competitive Exhibiting and International and National Thematic Organizations.

The Getting Started chapter offers creative thought from seven topical collectors covering their personal journeys. You’ll find everything from ideas for children and terms that help explain “topical” vs. “thematic” to how to decide on an appropriate topic, including what to ask yourself before you begin.

And, as longtime respected philatelist John Hotchner tells it, even the most experienced collectors have a place in topicals. “I could also pursue serious philately with a limited budget as ‘my’ stamps had the technical properties that required traditional knowledge of perforation differences, essays and proofs, color varieties, EFOs, and something often overlooked by country collectors: design errors,” writes Hotchner.

Five authors offer 24 pages of advice in the Initial Decisions chapter. Areas include acquiring stamps, stamp basics and terminology (fancy cancel vs. precancel); research, organization, sources and references; scope and depth; and working with dealers.

“I could have stopped (at 39 stamps) and had a ‘complete’ topical collection,” writes Jack André Denys about scope and collecting stamps featuring the Bayeux Tapestry, “but I chose to expand the collection’s scope by including other types of philatelic material that depict my topic. These are basic types of common philatelic items issued by governments, but not usually listed in standard postage stamp catalogs.”

Matt Liebson also notes that topical collecting makes philately a family hobby. “Raising stamp collecting children can be surprisingly easy,” writes Liebson. “I think there are two keys. First, kids are interested in whatever their family does. Second, select the activity and subject to match another interest of the child.”

The meatiest chapter – and probably the most important for mid-level or experienced collectors – is Expanding Your Horizons. Authors in several sub-chapters explain – with dozens of eye-popping images – the vast amount of philatelic material that can be worked into a topical collection. With explanations for more than 30 types of stamps – from official and occupation to joint issues and precancels, it’s no surprise this chapter runs long. Throw in the many types of revenues, plus errors, postal stationery, postmarks, cinderellas, flight covers and novelty

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items, it's almost a miracle that this chapter was contained to 46 pages.

The Storing and Displaying Your Collection chapter is filled with basics and standards that all collectors should know about (but sometimes forget). There is information about different catalogs, how to create an inventory, recording purchases, want lists, computer databases, storage materials and tools, hinges and mounts, albums and creating your own pages, proper computer software and even how to choose the proper paper for your collection.

The Competitive Exhibiting chapter has grown immensely from previous editions, from about 20 pages to 32 pages in a larger format. This is likely due to the growing interest in topical and thematic exhibiting. The chapter has a lot of how-to info and tips from experienced award-winning exhibitors, such as Philip J. Stager.

"Competitive exhibiting is continually evolving, especially thematic, topical, and display exhibits," wrote Stager. "Exhibiting and judging exhibits are best appreciated as art forms, and all art forms and other creative endeavors are continually evolving." Stager goes on to cover types of competitive exhibits and evaluation criteria with easy-to-read text.

Dr. Edwin J. Andrews, an APS-accredited chief philatelic judge, offers a judge's perspective on exhibiting. "The key to topical exhibits is that they should have a defined title, purpose, scope, and plan of organization, all of which can be adequately assessed using the Exhibit Evaluation Form," wrote Andrews. (Samples of the form are available on various philatelic websites.)

Elizabeth Hisey, another accredited judge, writes about the process of judging and offers this advice to exhibitors: "It is important that the exhibitor take advantage of meeting with the jury members and attending the exhibit feedback session at the show. It is there that they will learn valuable information about the scoring of their exhibit and where some extra focus might be needed."

The chapter is dense (not in a bad way) and packed full of information collectors need to create a competitive exhibit.

The final chapter – International and National Thematic Organizations – offers information on nearly two dozen international topical collecting organizations.

More important basics are in three appendices: a history of topical collecting and a list of ATA chapters, plus an intimately detailed 10-page summary of the important aspects of thematic exhibiting, including do's and don'ts of items to include for stamps (from pre-production to perfins and perforations to errors) and postal history (from the many types of cancellations and auxiliary markings to folded letters and feldpost correspondence).

The book is dedicated to Congrove, who sadly passed away in April before publication.

The spirit of topical collecting and this book might best be summed up by ATA member Chloe Nodine, who enthusiastically writes, "You can't go wrong with stamps! There are no rules, no standards, no right or wrong way of doing things in the world of topical stamps. You can start with just picking a topic that interests you and take off."

Overall, this is the new bible for topical collectors and a library must.

Jeff Stage

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**Íslenskur heilpóstur (Icelandic Postal Stationery)** by Hálfdan Helgason. 248 pages, 6 by 8 ½ inches, hardbound, in Icelandic and English, Sigurður Pétursson, Reykjavík, 2019. ISBN 978-9935-24-625-7, approximately \$48 plus postage from halfdan@halfdan.is.

Helgason has published previously on the international reply coupons of the world. Earlier works on Icelandic stationery such as Heinrich Schilling's *Island Ganzsachen 1879-1941* (1994) and S. Ringstrom's *Danmarks, Slesvigs, Dansk Vestindiens, Islands Helsager* (1985) were essentially brief overviews.

Helgason's new catalog will serve collectors of Iceland's postal stationery well although the author admits that due to space limitations he covers the major varieties of, for example, the two kings postal cards, but not all of the variants known. This is not a priced catalog but there are spaces provided for each entry where collectors can place a check mark if they own used and unused copies.

The catalog numbers begin with a 2-letter abbreviation for each category of stationery.

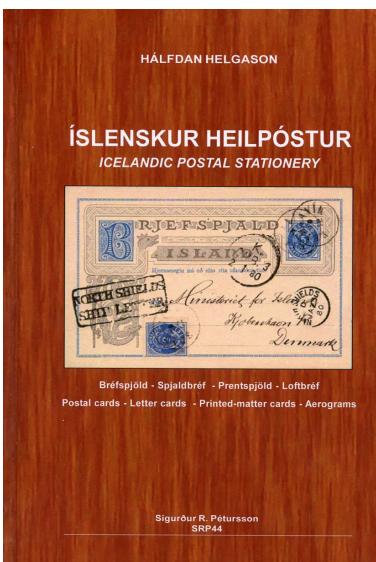
Es for Einfalt bréfspjald or single postal card  
Ts for Tvöfalt bréfspjald or double postal card

Sb for Spjaldbréf or letter card

Ps for Prentspjöld or printed matter card

Lb for Loftbréf or aerogram

The section on single cards begins with documents concerning the establishment of the cards by the government, invoices from the cliché maker and printer, and a brief discussion of the sale and distribution of the cards in 1879. Proof prints are



shown and varieties have enlarged drawings identifying the flaws.

Sub-sections within the postal cards are devoted to single and double aurar cards, single and double Í GILDI overprints, single and double King Christian IX, single and double Two-Kings, single and double King Christian X cards, and the 1919-1920 surcharges. Some sections begin with a brief discussion of the printer, paper, watermarks, and a table showing quantities printed and shipments from the printer in Copenhagen to Iceland. The postal cards issued from 1991 to 2011 have a section of their own.

The letter cards receive similar treatment and a separate discussion is given on differentiating and classifying the King Christian X letter cards. There were only half a dozen printed matter cards issued and their data and varieties are presented.

The final chapter focuses on aerograms that were introduced October 9, 1949. Types with and without printed indicia are listed. This section ends with a rate table in chronological order. Effective November 1, 1990 aerograms were no longer sold.

The bilingual aspect of this book will benefit a much wider audience. The Icelandic text is in black and the English in red throughout the book. The illustrations are quite good including those that highlight printing varieties. A brief bibliography concludes the book. A definitive catalog of the postal stationery of Iceland was long overdue and the need has now been satisfied with this wonderful catalog by Helgason. Alan Warren

Reviews Continued on page 9

**19<sup>th</sup> Century American Genre Paintings: Reading Newspapers in Tavern Post Offices** by Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris. 36 pages, 8 ½ by 11, card covers, saddle stitched, La Posta Publications, Fredericksburg, Va., 2020. \$24.95 plus postage from La Posta Publications, PO Box 6074, Fredericksburg VA 22403, or [www.lapostapub.com](http://www.lapostapub.com).

La Posta Publications has released the second volume in its new monograph series. Co-authors Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris, the venerable editors of the *Postal History Journal*, draw readers into the world of social philately, combining history, art, newspapers, early post offices, and ephemera. Using three well known 19<sup>th</sup> century paintings, they engage in forensic methods to draw conclusions about moments in history at the time of three major events: the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the California Gold Rush.

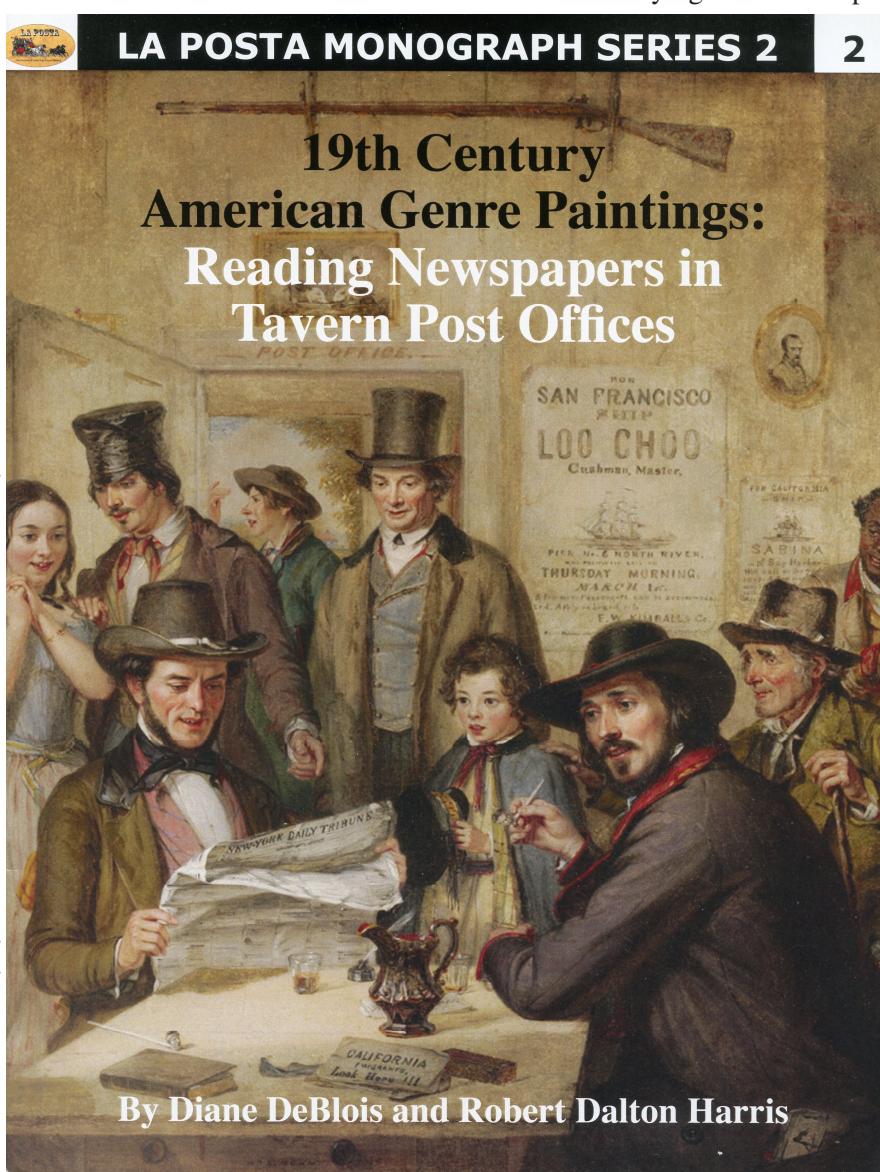
The first painting, "In an American Inn/Village Tavern," (1814) by artist John Lewis Krimmel, depicts a scene in a public tavern that also served as a post office. A postman, having just left a coach, enters the tavern carrying a bag of mail and a basket of newspapers. Evidence derived from the painting includes the date of May 1814, and the likely location as the George Washington Inn in Downingtown, Pa., along the Lancaster turnpike. Patrons are perusing current newspapers, and back issues hang from the walls.

The second genre painting is Richard Caton Woodville's "News from Mexico" (1848) that shows a villager reading aloud from a newspaper on the porch of a post office

located in a hotel. The authors conclude that the inn/post office was likely in Boonsboro, Md., a stage stop on the National Road. A volunteer recruitment poster for the Mexican War is pasted to a post on the hotel porch.

Closeups of portions of the painting reveal the poverty of some villagers in threadbare clothing, and a nervous smoker with several cigarette butts on the floor, as if anxiously waiting for the news. As in the Krimmel painting, the post office and newspapers are shown to be important means of conveying news to the public.

**2**



William Sidney Mount's 1850 painting "California News" again shows a tavern that housed a local post office, with patrons listening intently to someone reading aloud from an issue of the *New York Daily Tribune* newspaper. Evidence reveals that the tavern post office was located in Stony Brook, Long Island. Posters on the wall in Mount's painting and other details reinforce that the news is about the California gold fever.

DeBlois and Harris researched the lives of the artists, located maps of the assumed locations, magnified portions of the paintings, and even examined sketches for the final paintings to substantiate their conclusions. Their studies have extracted details that enabled them to flesh out the narratives of three significant 19<sup>th</sup>

century events, and to highlight the importance of post offices, taverns, and newspapers in informing the public. The depth of their research is revealed in nearly 50 endnotes that conclude the monograph.

*Alan Warren*

# SESCAL 2020 Literature Palmares

October 3, 2020

## Grand

Louis Fiset

Resumption of Mail Service to Europe 1944-1948

## Reserve Grand

Louis Fiset

DETAIN and CONDEMNED Resealing Labels during the Bermuda Censor Station's Transition to Imperial Censorship (IC) Status

## Large Gold

Harold Krische

The 1919 Ninoshima Camp Exhibition and its Postcards (90 pts)

Louis Fiset

DETAIN and CONDEMNED Resealing Labels during the Bermuda Censor Station's Transition to Imperial Censorship (IC) Status (90 pts)

Louis Fiset

Resumption of Mail Service to Europe 1944-1948 (92 pts)

Edward Grabowski

Philately and international mail order fraud: The success of the New York Institute of Science in Hungary (90 pts)

## Gold

Ralph H. Nafziger

Civil Censorship of U.S. First Day Covers During the Prexie Era (89 pts)

Hugh Lawrence and  
Richard Cates

The "Suzhong Pictorial" Stamps Of 1945-46 (89 pts)

Francis J. Crown, Jr.

The 10¢ Red "Southern Confederacy" Danville, Va. Provisional Envelope (88 pts)

Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Dr. H. H. Green: An Early "Junk Mailer" (87 pts)

## Large Vermeil

Steve Swain

Thrilling Adventures in Stamp Comics (84 pts)

Steve Swain

'Fake Town' Spanish-American War Postal History (84 pts)

Norman F. Jacobs

Kohima and Imphal - the Battle of the Tennis Court (82 pts)

Charles J. DiComo,  
PhD

From the Front Lines: LT. Col. William G. Belknap's First Hand Account of the Battle of Monterrey During the Mexican-American War in 1846 (81 pts)

Sescal Continued on Page 11

**Vermeil**

- Kenneth G. Clark      The First Showa Series of Definitive Stamps-Coil Stamps/Booklet Stamps (78 pts)
- Kenneth Bryson      Report: A Personal Discovery (78 pts)
- Ken Gilbert      An Introduction to German Rural Mail (Landpost) Markings and Cancels (79 pts)
- Paul M. Holland      Presidential Series 3¢ Jefferson: a link to FDR's third term decision, and more... (79 pts)
- Paul M. Holland      Exploring Early British Line-Engraved Stamps (79 pts)
- Anker Nielsen      Nielsen, Anker, "Double Circle" type Medium-Size, Single-Circle cancellation with a 2-digit year New reported sightings from Kōbe and Tōkyō; (77 pts)

**Large Silver**

- Todd J. Lewis      Karl Lewis Yokohama Years (72 pts)
- Todd J. Lewis      New Karl Lewis New Zealand Covers? (74 pts)
- Leo Martyn      World War Two Cross Border Censored Mail between Nepal and Tibet (70 pts)
- Anker Nielsen      Registered domestic mail with proof of delivery (74 pts)

**Silver**

- Zach Lawrence      1889 Cover with Interesting Markings (69 pts)

**Silver Bronze**

- Zach Lawrence      Another Cover with Interesting Markings (64 pts)
- Juan L. Riera      Remember the Maine! To hell with Spain! (60 pts)

**Bronze**

- Juan L. Riera      Felix Varela: Social Reformer (58 pts)

## **SPONSORED AWARDS**

### **American Philatelic Society Research Medal**

Edward Grabowski      Philately and international mail order fraud: The success of the New York Institute of Science in Hungary

### **International Society for Japanese Philately**

Harold Krische      The 1919 Ninoshima Camp Exhibition and its Postcards

### **Postal History Society Award**

Louis Fiset      Resumption of Mail Service to Europe 1944-1948

### **SESCAL 2020 Literature Jury Members:**

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Patrick A. Walters, Jury Chairman  | Arvada, CO          |
| Peter D. Martin, Judge             | Fredericksburg, VA  |
| William S DiPaolo, Jr., Judge      | University Park, FL |
| Dr. Akthem Al-Manaseer, Apprentice | San Jose, CA        |
| Judge                              |                     |



**Editor's Note: Sescal, Chicagopex and Sarasota Literature Virtual Exhibitions are held despite the Philatelic Shows being cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.**

# CHICAGOPEX 2020 Literature Palmares

November 21, 2020

## John Kevin Doyle Grand Award

Seija-Riitta-Laakso The Posthorn

## Reserve Grand & Best Postal History

Louis Fiset French Interzone Mail during the German Occupation (1940–1943)

## Reserve Grand

John M. Hotchner The Development and use of Consular Bicentennial  
Postal Stationery 1990–1994

## Large Gold

Seija-Riita Laakso The Posthorn  
John M. Hotchner The Development and use of Consular Bicentennial  
Postal Stationery 1990–1994  
Louis Fiset French Interzone Mail during the German Occupation (1940–1943)

## Gold

Kishor S. Chandak Encyclopaedia of Early Indian Cancellations and Postmarks 1852–1900  
& P. G. Bhargave  
Ed Kroft QC FRPSC The Doar Ivri Issue of Israel: Postal and Commercial Usages of the  
Three High Values  
Alan Warren Ice Cap News  
Albert Starkweather First Days  
Diane DeBlois Postal History Journal  
& Robert Harris  
Michael D. Roberts Mexicana  
Hugh Lawrence The “Suzhong Pictorial” Stamps of 1945–46  
& Richard Cates  
Harold Krische The 1919 Ninoshima Camp Exhibition and its Postcards

## Large Vermeil

Harvey D. Wolinetz Synagogue Stamps: An International Tour of Synagogues  
Robert L. Toal The Lipman Postal Card: Forerunner from Philadelphia  
Peter Thy Forerunners  
Chris Hargreaves The Canadian Aerophilatelist  
Richard T. Hall Swiss Stamp Scene  
Norman F. Jacobs Spanning a Century: Tennis Local Posts, and Rattlesnake  
Island Revisited  
Bill Schultz Scarce Postal Rate of 6 1/4 Cents  
& Jasmine Smith  
Petroleum Philatelic Petroleum Stamps of the World (PSW)  
Society International  
Ralph E. Trimble FRPSC Re-Entries.com

Chicagopex Continued on page 14

## **Vermeil**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Richard Pederson | A. M. G. Courier  |
| Greg Pirozzi     | Vatican Notes: quarterly Journal of the Vatican Philatelic Society                      |
| Ken Gilbert      | An Introduction to German Rural Mail (Landpost) Markings<br>and Cancels (parts 1 and 2) |
| Paul M. Holland  | Exploring Early British Line-Engraved Stamps  |
| Paul M. Holland  | Presidential Series 3¢ Jefferson: a link to FDR's third term<br>decision, and more      |
| Lim Lik          | 1998 XVI Commonwealth Games   |

## **Large Silver**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Niall Murphy                                  | IMPS Newsletters, Vol. 2 (2019)               |
| Wendi Trauzzi                                 | Grand News                                    |
| Petroleum Philatelic<br>Society International | The Petro-Philatelist (P-P)                   |
| Laurie Anderson                               | WE Expressions                                |
| Robert Conley                                 | Journal of Texas Philately and Postal History |

## **Silver**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Angela Watson | The Alaskan Philatelist                   |
| Lisa Foster   | Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Journal |

## **CHICAGOPEX 2020 Literature Jury Members**

|                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dr. Peter McCann, Jury Chairman    | University Park, Florida     |
| Douglas Clark                      | Marstons Mill, Massachusetts |
| William DiPaolo                    | University Park, Florida     |
| Dr. Akthem Al-Manaseer, Apprentice | San Jose, California         |



# Sarasota 2021 exhibition plans Articles-Only Literature Exhibit

By Linn's Staff

The Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition is inviting submissions to its third annual articles-only literature exhibit. The annual stamp show and exhibition is scheduled for Jan. 22-24, 2021, at Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, in Sarasota, Fla. Admission and parking will be free.

If the COVID-19 pandemic should force the cancellation of the show, the literature event will still take place, according to Bill DiPaolo, the literature exhibit chairman.

The literature exhibit is open only to articles of fewer than 8,000 words. The articles-only format is intended to recognize the hundreds of authors of philatelic journal articles who each year contribute to the hobby with new information for collectors, exhibitors and researchers.

Authors wishing to participate in the exhibit are advised to send entries in quickly since space is limited. All submissions will be electronic and when accepted will be posted on the show's website, making them immediately available to all.

The 2021 jury will include John Hotchner as chief judge, with Daniel Warren, Ken Trettin and Edward Kroft.

The exhibit has been likened to one-frame philatelic exhibits.

According to Liz Hisey, chair of the Sarasota show: "Though short, they can still tell an important philatelic story. Larger philatelic works often begin with these shorter articles. The objective here is to recognize the contributions made by these articles that can be overshadowed by their bigger brothers found in traditional literature exhibits."

The literature exhibit is cosponsored by Writers Unit 30, the society of philatelic authors and editors.

"Involvement in this effort furthers the mission of Writers Unit 30 by encouraging more collectors to share their knowledge through the many journals our hobby is fortunate to have and then recognizing those works," said David Crotty, Writers Unit 30 vice president and editor of the unit's journal, the *Philatelic Communicator*.

Journal editors and authors are encouraged to submit entries for the literature exhibition no later than Dec. 1.

A complete prospectus and entry form are available on the Sarasota Stamp Club's website.



# Articles

|  |  |
|--|--|
| A Checklist Project for Advanced Collecting.....A.J. Valente   |  |
| Absentee Ballots Used Postage Meters.....David Crotty, Alan Knutson                                  |  |
| Do you think anyone would be interested in.....John M. Hotchner                                      |  |
| Obituaries   |  |
| Albert Warren Starkweather, Jr., 1939-2020 Former Editor<br><i>The Philatelic Communicator</i> ..... |  |
| George Brown Arfken, Jr. 1922-2020.....  |  |



## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

### Secretary Report

#### Writers Unit #30

The purpose of the Writers Unit #30 of the American Philatelic Society is to encourage and assist philatelic communications, knowledge, and comradeship. Membership is open to anyone interested in philatelic communications.

#### Membership Dues

The membership dues for each calendar year are:

Web Delivery email full color..... \$15.00

USPS delivery B/W photocopy..... \$20.00

Those members without access to email can pay for a B/W Xerox copy by US Mail. Payment must be made in U.S. funds by a check imprinted with a U.S. bank transit number, or by postal money order payable to "APS Writers Unit #30." Some overseas members prefer to send U.S. bank notes. We will soon have PayPal available but not yet.

#### Updating Your Mailing Address

Please notify us of USPS and email address changes to assure that you receive without delay each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*.

**Alan Barasch, Secretary Treasurer**  
P O Box 411571  
Saint Louis, MO 63141-3571  
WU30@MOPHIL.ORG

# Departments

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| 3 Reviews  |    |
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| American Topical Association   |    |
| <i>Íslenskur heilpóstur (Icelandic Postal Stationery)</i> ....   |    |
| Hálfdan Helgason   |    |
| 5 <i>19<sup>th</sup> Century American Genre Paintings: Reading Newspapers in Tavern Post Offices</i> ..... |    |
| Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris   | 9  |
| Sescal 2020 Literature Exhibit.....  | 10 |
| Chicagopex 2020 Literature Exhibit.....  | 13 |

### Materials for Review

Material for review may be sent to the editor. Reviews of materials are welcomed from members and non-members. Reviews should be concise and stress those aspects that are helpful examples (positive or negative) for other authors, editors and publishers. Review requests from those having an interest in the item, such as publishers and distributors, must include a copy of the publication.

### Expert Help for Writers and Editors

Dr. Dane S. Claussen, Writers Unit #30 past president, offers free critiques of periodicals, books and manuscripts. Submit the four most recent issues, including postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee. Any unused amount will be returned. Critiques can be expected in about 30 days. Inquire before sending books and manuscripts, providing a brief description. Return time will vary depending on length and other commitments. Include an SASE. Send to Dr. Dane S. Claussen's Email: danes.claussen@gmail.com.

### Chapter and Website Feedback Service

Beginning in January 2019 critiques of club newsletters or websites will be available to any chapter at no cost. On request an experienced collector will review and provide written feedback on strengths and weaknesses to help your chapter better serve its members. The feedback service will replace the previous Chapter Newsletter and Website competitions. For more details check the APS website.

### 2020-2022 Literature Exhibits

**APS Great American Stamp Show** August 11, 2021,  
Rosemont, IL [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org).

**CHICAGOPEX 2020** cancelled, Literature exhibit continued. [www.chicagopex.com](http://www.chicagopex.com). Check their website.

**SESCAL Article Only**, October 2-4, 2020. Southern California. [Sescal.org](http://Sescal.org).

**Sarasota Article Only Literature Exhibit**

Check Advert. On Page 15

**CAPEX 2022**. Toronto Canada June 2022.